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WOMAN AND THE ESSAY.

At first thought, it might seem that if there is one field of literature more than another in which women are likely to excel, that field would be the light essay. But the facts show precisely the contrary. There is no lack of articles, profound, clever, and able, written by women on all manner of subjects. Miss Scudder, Mrs. Deland, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, and Mrs. Sangster, are but a few out of the many American women whose names come readily to mind as writers of philosophical, historical, biographical, or practical papers. But for critical essays in light vein, such as those of

Mr. Lang, Mr. Gosse, Mr. Howells, and Mr. Matthews, or for those on life and society corresponding to the essays of Stevenson, or to the short papers of George William Curtis, Charles Dudley Warner, and Mr. Higginson, we shall look in vain among women writers. We have, in truth, no women essayists.

Miss Repplier might perhaps be cited as an exception; but though undeniably clever, she is overweighed by her voluminous reading, and lacks both of the indispensable qualities of the essayist. For whether the essay be as keen in insight and as subtle in interpretation as Pater's on Leonardo da Vinci, or as simple as Warner's in the "Editor's Drawer," its essential charms are to be looked for in the individuality and style of the writer. In other forms of literature the author may project his work from himself, and literary finish is not so indispensable; but the essay must have the flavor of personality and the distinction of style. In both of these requisites the work of women is lacking. There are no papers written by women in which we feel the attraction of individuality, and no woman has yet written in the English language who can be said to have literary style in the sense in which it can fairly be claimed for fifty or more men among living or recent writers.

Do we find such slight indications of personality in the writings of women because they have less individuality than men? A writer in one of the leading periodicals a few years ago was at some pains to prove this to be the case. But granting a measure of truth in the hypothesis, there are other possible explanations for the fact that women show little personality in their writings.

Women are at once more self-conscious and more conventional than men. They may be spontaneous and individual in an intimate correspondence, but in anything more public they rarely show their real selves freely and naturally. Probably the desire for self-revelation is stronger in women than in men, but there is always a pose in conscious efforts to communicate one's self, whether the striver be a Marie Bashkirtseff or a Rousseau. It is only when, in self-forgetfulness, one says straight out what he genuinely thinks and feels, that he becomes

personally interesting. This, women never do, and apparently cannot do. They do not seem to know how to let go of themselves, and either practice severe self-repression, or else they attitudinize, or become unduly confidential and familiar with their public.

Probably another reason why the short, bright essay, dealing cleverly with men and things, is not written by women, lies in the incompatibility between the feminine temperament and the tone of the essay. Women are by nature partisans. They take themselves and their views too seriously to handle a subject with humor and impartiality. The attitude of the disinterested spectator is impossible to the sex. Rarely do we find a woman who is both a keen and a tolerant observer of life. In fact, the knowledge of life which constitutes the recognized background of the essayist is wanting in women. They may, through social settlements and charity organizations, come to know "how the other half lives"; but that is quite a different thing from knowledge of life.

The lack of literary style among women writers, which would hinder a compiler of a book of model prose extracts for analysis from making a selection from the work of any woman, is largely due to causes already mentioned. If the style is the man, individuality in style cannot be separated from individuality in thought. Women frequently are fluent, easy, and graceful in expression, but they seldom attain a distinguishing any more than a distinguished style. When they attempt to be serious or profound, they are usually labored; when, on the other hand, they essay the light touch, they become flippant and diffuse. The easy conversational tone degenerates with them into triviality, through lack of being subjected to the rigid control of good taste.

Undoubtedly a choice diction and fine literary finish do not come to anyone by nature. They are achieved only with infinite pains. Women, as a rule, are not willing to exercise the tireless patience necessary to acquire the little touches that distinguish the artistic from the commonplace use of language. Consequently they are never artists in the use of words. These are at least among the reasons why women, though they may excel as writers of fiction, history, biography, travel, of practical and theoretical articles of all sorts, and of clever sketches, are not as yet contributing anything worthy of mention to the most finished of all forms of prose literature.

EDITH DICKSON.

SOME EARLY ANTI-SLAVERY PUBLICATIONS.

A few months ago a writer in *THE DIAL* took Professor Barrett Wendell to task for omitting to mention in his "Literary History of America" Mrs. Lydia Maria Child's book, issued in 1833, entitled "An Appeal for that Class of Americans called Africans," which he claimed was incontestably "the first Anti-Slavery book published in America."* Knowing that there were a number of earlier anti-slavery books, I have made a point of picking them up as rapidly as I have run across their titles in the catalogues of second-hand booksellers. A rough list of "Anti-Slavery Publications from 1750 to 1863," compiled by the Rev. Samuel May, Jr., was added to the "Report of the Third Decade Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society," and a list of publications before 1835 is given by General William Birney as an appendix to his "Life of James G. Birney." Notices of the earlier anti-slavery publications may be found in the "Life of Garrison" by his sons, and in other similar works. The test of what constitutes a book is somewhat arbitrary; but, in the popular sense, any publication bound in board covers is a book.

Passing over a number of sermons and tracts belonging to the Colonial period, the earliest original anti-slavery book published in the United States appears to have been a little 16mo, issued in Philadelphia in 1816, entitled "The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable," by the Rev. George Bourne. It might be questioned whether this may properly be called an American book, as the author was born in England; but it was certainly "an anti-slavery book published in America." This book was the source of many of the most telling phrases afterward used by Garrison. Little biographical information respecting Bourne is now accessible. There is a short notice of him in Appletons' "Cyclopædia of American Biography," but most of the statements contained in it appear to be erroneous. He came to America early in the century, and encountered the institution of Slavery during a residence in Maryland and Virginia. Persecution finally drove him to Canada, whence he returned and in 1832 settled in New York, where he engaged in editorial work until his death in 1845. He continued writing against slavery to the end of his life. A book by him entitled "Pictures of Slavery in the United States," published in 1834, was illustrated by curious wood-cuts of "Selling Females by the Pound," "Ladies Whipping Girls," and the like.

In 1817, two more anti-slavery publications were issued. The first was not a book but a little tract of 59 pages, issued in blue paper wrappers at Cambridge, Mass. It was entitled "Horrors of Slavery: In Two Parts," by John Kenrick of Newton, Mass. It contained no original matter. Part I. consisted of extracts from parliamentary

**THE DIAL*, Feb. 1, 1901, p. 68.

speeches taken from Clarkson's "History of the Abolition of the Slave Trade," and Part II. was made up of opinions of various American and foreign writers respecting slavery. Among the extracts is one from a pamphlet to which I find no other reference. It was written by Jarvis Brewster, entitled "An Exposition of the Treatment of Slaves in the Southern States," and printed at New Brunswick, N. Y., in 1815. Kenrick caused a copy of his tract to be laid upon the desk of every U. S. Senator and Member of Congress. The second anti-slavery publication of this year was entitled "Portraiture of Domestic Slavery in the United States," by Jesse Torrey, Jr., an octavo of 94 pages, bound in boards and issued in Philadelphia. The book describes a trip from Pittsburg to Washington, and the abuse of slaves that was witnessed en route. The author was a physician, who wrote a number of books upon other subjects, the titles of which are given by Allibone. Kenrick's tract and Torrey's book were both denounced in a speech delivered in the Senate March 6, 1818, by Wm. Smith of South Carolina.

The next anti-slavery book was entitled "A Treatise on Slavery," by the Rev. James Duncan, printed at Vevay, Indiana, in 1824. I have not seen a copy of the original edition, but a reprint issued in 1840, by the American Anti-Slavery Society, makes a closely-printed little book of 136 pages. It is written in the dry and formal style of the old-time sermon. Very little can be learned of the author. The editor of the reprint says that he had intended to give a biographical sketch of him, but had mislaid the notes for it.

In 1826 a little book entitled "Letters on American Slavery" was published by the Rev. John Rankin at Ripley, Ohio. The letters were very violent in tone, and became extremely popular with the radical abolitionists. Garrison reprinted them in the second volume of "The Liberator," and they afterwards ran through half a dozen editions. Its author continued a vigorous war against slavery until the victory was achieved.

One other book that should be mentioned here is a "Sketch of the Laws Relating to Slavery in the Several States of the United States," by Mr. George M. Stroud, the first edition of which, published in Philadelphia in 1827, made an octavo of 180 pages. This book is still extremely interesting and instructive reading. Though not professedly an anti-slavery book, it is strongly imbued with anti-slavery principles, and in its plain statement of legal conditions constitutes to the mind of the present-day reader a much stronger indictment of slavery than the more direct attacks upon the institution. The author was Judge of the Circuit Court of the City and County of Philadelphia.

The next anti-slavery book issued in the United States was Mrs. Child's work, an able book and longer than its predecessors, but certainly not "the first anti-slavery book published in America." The main point is that the rise of anti-slavery sentiment

in the United States was due not to any one person or coterie of persons, but to a very large number of people working independently in different parts of the country, most of them not writing for publication but using their influence in public and private station in furtherance of the cause. Incidentally it may be remarked that a great deal of work still remains to be done upon the history of the beginnings of the anti-slavery movement in America.

F. H. HODDER.

COMMUNICATION.

MR. FREDERIC HARRISON AS A CRITIC OF TENNYSON.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

Mr. Frederic Harrison, in his essay on Tennyson in his recent volume of "Literary Estimates," says of "In Memoriam": "Indeed, with all its art, melody, and charm, we see from time to time in 'In Memoriam' a little too visibly the 'sad mechanic exercise' which is the inevitable result of too rigid and prolonged devotion to the uses of 'measured language.'"

That would do very well, alone; but a little farther on in the same essay Mr. Harrison seems so to alter his opinion as to speak of "Tennyson's religious and philosophical pieces (especially 'In Memoriam,' the most perfect of his poems), because his claim to rank as the supreme poet of the nineteenth century must rest on this *if on anything*." And a little farther on still, he says: "It is a far happier task to turn to the more distinctly lyrical work of Tennyson — that whereon his permanent fame must abide." The italics, in both cases, are mine.

Now, it seems to me that most admirers of Tennyson will agree with Mr. Harrison in his latter statement; but it is hard for them to understand his singular disagreement with himself. In two different books, or even in two different essays in the same book, such contradictions of view might be excused on the ground of changed views ("I do not let what I think to-day keep me from thinking what I ought to-morrow"). But in the same essay they cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged, — especially as Mr. Harrison's Tennyson "estimate" is full of "this sort of thing."

Another example may perhaps suffice. Mr. Harrison, having spoken of Tennyson as "the supreme poet of the nineteenth century," surprises us by remarking, a little later on: "It may be doubted if his ultimate place in our literature will at all overtop that of Burns, Wordsworth, Byron, or Shelley." In the name of "serious, patient, and absolutely impartial criticism," it may be asked what Burns is doing in such high company. Burns is a minor poet of very genuine if very limited merit, but he has no claim to a place among the "far-darters" of "the peaks of song." Concerning the ratings of the other three, competent critics would have us believe that it will be "merely a matter of opinion" for a score of years at least.

If the fame of Tennyson's lyrics is "that whereon his permanent fame must abide," it may be well to discover which of those lyrics are of greatest worth. Mr. Harrison says: "Above all others are the songs in 'The Brook,' 'The Princess,' and in 'Maud.'" I cannot think that "the consensus of critical opinion" agrees

with these *dicta* of Mr. Harrison. He speaks of "the songs in 'The Brook,'" but after an exhaustive search through the ten volumes of the definitive edition of Tennyson, I can find but *one* song in "The Brook." This, it is true, is broken into several parts. Mr. Harrison, as a critic, should be more careful in his statements. The song in "The Brook" is charming; but is it very much more? Or rather, is it as much more than charming as are many others of Tennyson's lyrics? In fact, I think it the very slightest in merit of Tennyson's twenty or twenty-five best lyrics. The songs in "The Princess,"—"The Splendor Falls on Castle Walls," "Tears, Idle Tears," "O Swallow, Swallow," "Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal," and "Come Down, O Maid,"—are of course delightful lyrics; that almost goes without saying, since they are Tennyson's lyrics. But, even admitting that they are in the first rank of Tennyson's lyrics, are they, in the language of the Oxford schools, such "good firsts" as the lyrics "A Farewell," "Choric Song," "Far—Far Away," "In the Valley of Canteretz," "Requiescat," "Sir Galahad," "Crossing the Bar," "The Deserted House," and "The Silent Voices"? The songs in "The Princess," Mr. Harrison says, "are most bewitching." That is true,—but Tennyson at his lyric best is more than that.

Mr. Harrison speaks of "Ulysses" as one of the "Idylls." It, and "Vastness," are the two poems of Tennyson which most evade classification. It is of course easy to classify and measure after this fashion. It is more difficult to classify and measure correctly. If Mr. Harrison gave more attention to helping "the reader who wants criticism," both writer and reader would be better off.

Mr. Harrison quotes the first line of "Despair"—
"Is it you that preach'd in the chapel there looking over the sand?"

And says: "This is not poetry, with 16 syllables and 52 letters in the line." It is true that this line is not utter poetry, but not especially because it contains 16 syllables and 52 letters. It would probably be neither better nor worse poetry if it contained 49 letters, or 63 letters. Perhaps, if the line were printed,

"Is it you that preach'd in the chapel,
There, looking over the sand?"

Mr. Harrison would have less trouble in deciphering what poetic quality it possesses. Yet where is the essential difference? I think the difficulty Mr. Harrison says one ought to find in reading this line of "16 syllables" is chiefly non-existent. Mr. Harrison also finds fault because Tennyson has so many monosyllables in his poetry, and so few polysyllables. But so long as the result is poetry, one doesn't care whether the words are long-syllabled or short-syllabled. If the result is not poetry, one ought not to care much about it, either.

With such futilities as these does Mr. Harrison regale us in his essay on Tennyson. Such captious dissections, and philological peckings, are but the tin-soldiery of literary criticism. Some there are who give us "this sort of thing" because they cannot give us real literary criticism. Less often we are confronted by cases in which a critic persists in this minute method because he is of the opinion that it is "scientific." Mr. Frederic Harrison can write good criticism, and he does write it elsewhere in this volume; but the essay on Tennyson is "of little worth."

ALEXANDER JESSUP.

Westfield, Mass., October 22, 1901.

The New Books.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.*

"I am richer than he thinks for," Lowell once wrote to his friend Briggs, *apropos* of a recent notice which had intimated that the young poet was in easy circumstances. "I am the first poet who has endeavored to express the American Idea, and I shall be popular by and by. Only I suppose I must be dead first. But I do not want anything more than I have." These words were written in the *annus mirabilis* of Lowell's youth, the year which produced "The Fable for Critics," "The Biglow Papers," and "The Vision of Sir Launfal." It is as the poet of the American Idea, so nobly expressed in these early writings, and even more nobly in some of the later ones, that we cherish the memory of Lowell, and turn to him, rather than to any other, for cheer and consolation in such a time as our own, when the Idea upon which he had fixed his faith seems to have become submerged beneath a flood of corruption, self-seeking ambition, and the cynical disregard of our national obligations. It may be urged that the American Idea, as Lowell voiced it, was nothing more than the New England Idea, or the Puritan Idea, but we are of those who believe that the best expression thus far given to Americanism in its finer sense is the expression given it by the group of New England writers who for many years held the national conscience so largely in their keeping, and of whom Lowell was at once the raciest and the most deeply imbued with those moral principles which are the only real basis of our national greatness. And it is because in these dark recent days those principles seem to have lost their old-time hold upon our national life that we listen more yearningly than ever for some echo of the voice that thrilled with indignation in "The Biglow Papers" and with the pride of American manhood in the great ode consecrated to the sacred memory of Abraham Lincoln.

It is now ten years since the death of Lowell bereft us, not merely of our foremost man of letters, but of our foremost man. While he was yet with us, the story of his life had been in many ways an open book, and since his death, our knowledge of that life has received

*JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. A Biography. By Horace Eliaba Scudder. In two volumes. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

large accessions. First in importance among these accessions stands, of course, the collection of Lowell's letters, as edited by Professor Norton. These volumes gave us so intimate a view of the man himself, as apart from his books, that they in a measure made a formal biography seem unnecessary. At least, they enabled us to wait patiently the appearance of such a biography, knowing that when it did appear it could hardly alter the main outlines of the portrait that had already been drawn for us. Nevertheless, the biography, as we now have it, is a welcome contribution to the history of American literature and of American manhood, and the discreet sympathy which Mr. Scudder has brought to its preparation deserves our warmest gratitude. The previous publication of the "Letters" has mainly determined the lines of the present biography. Concerning this matter, Mr. Scudder says:

"If they had not been published, I might have made a 'Life and Letters' which would have been in the main Lowell's own account of himself, in his voluminous correspondence, annotated only by such further account of him as his letters failed to supply. As it is, though I have had access to a great many letters not contained in Mr. Norton's work, I have thought it desirable not so much to supplement the 'Letters' with other letters, as to complement those volumes with a more formal biography, using such letters or portions of letters as I print for illustration of my subject, rather than as the basis of the narrative."

Having thus introduced what is probably the most important publication of the present year, it remains for us to illustrate its quality by a few extracts, and to call attention to a few of its more noticeable features.

When Lowell had got through with college, and, among other experimental ventures, started "The Pioneer," he wrote a prospectus which shows how serious were his aims thus early in his career. The object of the new periodical, we read, was to furnish the public

"With a rational substitute for the enormous quantity of thrice-diluted trash, in the shape of namby-pamby love tales and sketches, which is monthly poured out to them by many of our popular magazines,—and to offer instead thereof, a healthy and manly Periodical Literature, whose perusal will not necessarily involve a loss of time and a deterioration of every moral and intellectual faculty."

If such things might fairly be said sixty years ago, what language would be adequate to describe the state of things existing to-day, both in America and England, as respects the periodical literature which really enjoys a popular vogue!

As we all know, political passion became at an early age as important an element in Low-

ell's being as literary passion, and his independent attitude toward political questions receives constant expression in his writing when still a young man. Given the approval of his own conscience, and he cared not how many were leagued against him, or how formidable were the forces which he had to combat. How characteristic of the whole man is this satirical comment upon the time-serving politicians of the forties:

"The word no," he wrote, "is the shibboleth of politicians. There is some malformation or deficiency in their vocal organs which either prevents their uttering it at all, or gives it so thick a pronunciation as to be unintelligible. A mouth filled with the national pudding, or watering in the expectation of it, is wholly incompetent to this perplexing monosyllable. One might imagine that America had been colonized by a tribe of those nondescript African animals, the Aye Ayes. As Pius Ninth has not yet lost his popularity in this country by issuing a bull against slavery, our youth, who are always ready to hurrah for anything, might be practised in the formation of the refractory negative by being encouraged to shout *Viva Pio Nono*."

The culmination of Lowell's application of literature to politics was reached, of course, with the publication of that memorable masterpiece of satirical humor, the first series of "The Biglow Papers." What Mr. Scudder says of the work is so just and discriminating that it deserves quotation.

"The force which Lowell displayed in this satire made his book at once a powerful ally of a sentiment which heretofore had been crassly ridiculed; it turned the tables and put Anti-slavery, which had been fighting sturdily on foot with pikes, into the saddle, and gave it a flashing sabre. For Lowell himself it won an accolade from King Demos. He rose up a knight, and thenceforth possessed a freedom which was a freedom of nature, not a simple badge of service in a single cause. The book in its fullest meaning is an expression of Lowell's personality, and has in it the essence of New England. The character of the race from which its author sprang is preserved in its vernacular and in the characters of the *dramatis personæ*. Not unwittingly, but in the full consciousness of his own inheritance, Lowell became the spokesman of a racy people, whose moral force had a certain acrid quality, and, when thrown to the winds, as in the person of Birdofredom Sawin, was replaced by an insolent shrewdness. Nor is the exemplification of New England less complete for that infusion of homely sentiment and genuine poetic sensibility which underlie and penetrate the sturdy moral force."

Lowell's course of lectures given at the Lowell Institute during the winter of 1854-55 marked a sort of turning-point in his career. They not only led to more lectures elsewhere, but they also led to the recognition of Lowell's peculiar fitness to succeed Longfellow at Harvard. College lecturing, as he shaped it, was much to his taste, which cannot be said of the

public and itinerant lecturing of his apprenticeship to the art. "I hate this business of lecturing," he wrote from Wisconsin.

"To be received at a bad inn by a solemn committee, in a room with a stove that smokes but not exhilarates, to have three cold fish-tails laid in your hand to shake, to be carried to a cold lecture-room, to read a cold lecture to a cold audience, to be carried back to your smoke-side, paid, and the three fish-tails again — well, it is not delightful exactly."

But lecturing at Harvard, in his own way and on a subject that he liked, was a different matter, and he cannot have failed to receive some reflex influence from the inspiration that he gave year after year, to his classes of eager students. Here is a description of his way of dealing with Dante, upon whom he lectured for many years:

"The classes were not large, and the relation of the teacher to his students was that of an older friend who knew in a large way the author they were studying, and drew upon his own knowledge and familiarity with the text for comment and suggestion, rather than troubled himself much to find out how much his pupils knew. A student would trudge blunderingly along some passage, and Lowell would break in, taking up the translation himself very likely, and quickly find some suggestion for criticism, for elaboration, or incidental and remote comment. Toward the close of the hour, question and answer, or free discussion yielded to the stream of personal reminiscence or abundant reflection upon which Lowell would by this time be launched. Especially would he recall scenes in Florence, sketch in words the effects of the Arno, Giotto's Tower, the church in which Dante was baptized, where he himself had seen children held at the same font; and so Lowell gave out of his treasures, using that form of literature which was perhaps the most perfectly fitted to his mind, free, unconstrained talk."

For the formalities of academic work, however, he had little concern. Mr. Barrett Wendell tells the following anecdote of an academic exercise:

"Weeks passed, and no news came of our marks. At last one of the class, who was not quite at ease concerning his academic standing, ventured at the close of a recitation to ask if Mr. Lowell had assigned him a mark. Mr. Lowell looked at the youth very gravely, and inquired what he really thought his work deserved. The student rather diffidently said that he hoped it was worth sixty per cent. 'You may take it,' said Mr. Lowell, 'I don't want the bother of reading your book.'"

This reminds us of a story of Walter Pater in his character as a college teacher. He also, when questioned concerning his neglected marking of a set of themes, found a sufficient answer in the observation, "They did not greatly impress me."

It is from Lowell's "Atlantic" period that the following example of his humor is taken:

"Just as Lowell's fun could find its way even into

an index, so in his sober criticisms he would sometimes hide a jest for the delectation of especially discerning readers, as when in his article on White's Shakespeare, he remarks incidentally: 'To every commentator who has wantonly tampered with the text, or obscured it with his inky cloud of paraphrase, we feel inclined to apply the quadrisyllabic name of the brother of Agis, king of Sparta.' Felton, Longfellow tells us in a letter to Sumner, was the first to unearth the joke and to remember or discover that this name was Eudamidas."

Lowell was in charge of the "Atlantic" for about four years. The most distinguished of a distinguished line of editors, he was by temperament far from fitted for the work, and he chafed under its routine, its practical details, and its petty exactions. The constant flood of manuscripts appalled him; on one occasion he wrote jubilantly that he had cleared them all away, but the respite could not in the nature of things be lasting, and it was with a distinct sense of relief that he resigned the editorial desk to Mr. Fields. Under great difficulties he had accomplished much for the magazine, and given it that foremost place among our monthlies that it has ever since retained.

The chapter which deals with "Lowell and the War for the Union" is one of the strongest and most interesting in the biography, but it covers familiar ground, being mainly concerned with Lowell's political essays, and the second series of "The Biglow Papers." During this period, the "North American Review," of which he had assumed the editorship, became the medium through which he chiefly addressed the public. It is interesting to note the development of his appreciation of the great President who bore the burden of the Civil War. Lowell had favored the nomination of Seward, and was much disappointed when Lincoln proved to be the successful candidate in the Convention. He did not know the man, and he doubted. As the war went on, he expressed his impatience more than once at what seemed the temporizing policy and excess of caution displayed by Lincoln. But as the drama drew near its close, and the President was seen to be so magnificently justified by the event, Lowell's admiration for the man grew deeper and deeper, the heroic figure was at last seen in its true proportions, and Lowell more than made up for his early questionings in the apotheosis of his "Commemoration Ode." But it is curious to note that the sixth stanza, in which the wonderful characterization of Lincoln appears, was not recited at Harvard, and not even written at the time of the delivery of the "Ode," although added almost immediately afterwards.

"It is so completely imbedded in the structure of the ode that it is difficult to think of it as an afterthought. It is easy to perceive that while the glow of composition and of recitation was still upon him Lowell suddenly conceived this splendid illustration and indeed climax of the utterance of the Ideal which is so impressive in the fifth stanza. So free, so spontaneous is this characterization of Lincoln, and so concrete in thought, that it has been most frequently read, we suspect, of any single portion of the ode, and it is so eloquent that one likes to fancy the whole force of the ode behind it, as if Lowell needed the fire he had fanned to white heat, for the very purpose of forging this last, firm, tempered bit of steel. Into these threescore lines Lowell has poured a conception of Lincoln which may justly be said to be to-day the accepted idea which Americans hold of their great President. It was the final expression of the judgment which had slowly been forming in Lowell's own mind, and when he summed him up in his last line, —

'New birth of our new soil, the first American.'

He was honestly throwing away all the doubts which had from time to time beset him, and letting his ardent pursuit of the ideal, his profound faith in democracy as incarnate in his country, centre in this one man."

We must pass over the period of combined literary and educational activity that followed upon the close of the war, and turn at once to Lowell's career in the diplomatic service of his country. He was offered the Austrian mission soon after Hayes took the presidential chair. He told Mr. Howells, who approached him on behalf of the President, that he must decline the offer, but remarked, at the close of the conversation, "I *should* like to see a play of Calderon." The hint was sufficient, and soon thereafter he was officially invited to represent his country at Madrid. The social and diplomatic success of his Spanish Mission were so marked that the appointment to the Court of St. James followed some three years later as a logical consequence.

Lowell's life in England as American minister was useful to both his country and himself. The country benefitted by a strengthening of the bonds of friendship between the United States and England; the man benefitted by a broadening of his outlook and a refinement of his ideals. As early as 1848, he had written that "nationality is only a less narrow form of provincialism, a sublimer sort of clownishness and ill manners." But it is difficult to deny that Lowell, when he went to England, took with him something of that provincialism of which he himself, in his dispassionate moments, recognized the narrowness. An English critic who became one of his warmest admirers, and of whose sympathy there can be no doubt, wrote of his appearance in England as follows: "He came over here full of anti-English preju-

dices. When he said, 'We are worth nothing except so far as we have disinfected ourselves of Anglicism,' he fully meant what he said. Englishmen who met him then were apt to find this disinfecting process rather a nuisance, but with the American new-comer, if he is of the right strain, you have only to grin and bear. In the atmosphere of his fathers he will soon begin to grow. . . . The truth is that Lowell, having been thrown into the best circles — best, I mean, as regards their wide knowledge of man and of men — discovered (as Emerson had done before him) that the voice of the mob of New York is, in its Anglophobic temper at least, as far off from being the voice of God as that of any people under the sun. He found that between an American of the true strain and an Englishman of the true strain there is a stronger attraction than exists between men of any other strain, however good. He found that John Bull is not quite so offensively taurine as the American pressmen paint him — that he is not in the habit of greeting Jonathan with 'a certain condescension,' but on the contrary is in the habit of treating him as an absolute equal in most things, and as a superior in some." These remarks were made by Mr. Theodore Watts in a reminiscent article published in "The Athenæum" just after Lowell's death. The simple truth is that Lowell had misunderstood English life and thought before he came to live among Englishmen, and when he did come to understand them, he was honest enough to say what he thought. Yet, as his biographer says,

"Throughout his stay in England he showed a certain vigilance as the champion of American institutions, speech, and manners which gave him the air of combativeness. An Englishman who was often his host said: 'I like Mr. Lowell. I like to have him here. I keep him as long as I can, and I am always in terror lest somebody shall say something about America that would provoke an explosion.'"

One incident connected with Lowell's English experiences may be mentioned. His popularity was so great that it brought him, in 1883, the election as Lord Rector of the University of St. Andrews. Some indiscreet person having objected to the nomination because Lowell was an alien, the matter came up for lively discussion both in and out of print. "Punch," as usual, said the final word upon the subject of controversy, when it published the following verses:

"An alien? Go to! If fresh, genial wit
In sound Saxon speech be not genuine grit,
If the wisdom and mirth he has put into verse for us

Don't make him a 'native,' why so much the worse for us. Whig, Tory, and Rad should club votes, did he need 'em, To honor the writer who gave *Bird o' Freedom* To all English readers. A few miles of sea Make Lowell an alien? Fiddle-de-dee! 'Tis crass party spirit, Boeotian, dense, That is alien indeed — to good taste and good sense."

It turned out, however, that Lowell was ineligible for the appointment, not because he was an alien, but by reason of his "extra-territoriality" as the American minister.

We will close this review of a deeply-interesting work with some extracts which illustrate Lowell's attitude towards the larger questions of politics. In the strict sense, his political activity was confined to his services as a member of the Republican Convention of 1876, and as a Presidential Elector the following year. He went to the Convention as an adherent of Bristow and an opponent of Blaine. Writing of his participation in the gathering, he said:

"I believed that a Kentucky candidate might at least give the starting-point for a party at the South whose line of division should be other than sectional, and by which the natural sympathy between reasonable and honest men at the North and the South should have a fair chance to reassert itself. We failed, but at least succeeded in preventing the nomination of a man whose success in the Convention (he would have been beaten disastrously at the polls) would have been a lesson to American youth that selfish partisanship is a set-off for vulgarity of character and obtuseness of moral sense. I am proud to say that it was New England that defeated the New England candidate."

Eleven years later, he visited Chicago, for the purpose of addressing the Union League Club on Washington's birthday, and intending to speak upon "American Politics." The resulting episode is thus described by Mr. Scudder:

"The house was completely filled and Lowell was given a hearty welcome. The audience, however, was greatly taken aback at the first words of the speaker, for he said when he came forward that he had changed his subject and would speak, not on 'American Politics,' but upon the principles of literary criticism as illustrated by Shakespeare's 'Richard III.' . . . He went on to say that in announcing politics as the subject of his address he had not fully realized the conditions under which it was to be delivered; that he was accustomed to speak frankly, but that he found himself the guest and, in a manner, the representative of the Club. What he had to say would plainly give offence to his hosts, and he was thus compelled on the score of courtesy to change his subject. The situation was one which might have led those present to detect some irony in Lowell's politeness. The Union League Club was a Republican organization under the control of the Blaine wing of the party. It had succeeded in getting rid of those Republicans who had been hostile to Blaine, amongst whom was the gentleman who was Lowell's host. But Lowell had made no concealment of the position he occupied. He made it clear enough at this time, a couple of days later when he was a guest of the Harvard Club of Chi-

cago. 'I stood outside of party,' he then said, 'for nearly twenty-five years, and I was perfectly happy, I assure you. . . . Party organization, no doubt, is a very convenient thing, but a great many people, and I feel very strongly with them, feel that when loyalty to party means worse disloyalty to conscience, it is then asking more than any good man or any good citizen ought to concede.'"

The treatment accorded to Lowell upon this occasion by the press and a large section of the public was of such a nature that most Chicagoans of intelligence and refinement blush for their city whenever they recall the thing to mind. Both in public print and private conversation Lowell was roundly abused by those who should have been warmest in his defense. For an act prompted only by a fine sense of honor and exceptional delicacy of feeling he was dealt with as if he had been guilty of an insult to the public and a gross betrayal of faith. The whole affair was extremely discreditable to the city whose guest was thus treated, and we are glad that Mr. Scudder has at least outlined the situation with exact truthfulness. He might properly have gone still further, and made some caustic allusion to the public exhibition of bad manners which this episode occasioned, for in this, as in all other matters, it may safely be said of Lowell, as Tennyson said of Wellington,

"Whatever record leaps to light
He never shall be shamed."

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

CHINA'S INTELLECTUAL LIFE.*

After the doleful pages of Dr. W. A. P. Martin's "The Siege in Peking," in which the author appeared as a member of the church militant, it is a pleasure to turn to the scholarly and dignified volume on "The Lore of Cathay." No one has more qualifications than the President of the Chinese Imperial University for the writing of a book which shall, within reasonable compass, give the western world a sympathetic account of "The Intellect of China," as the sub-title of the book runs; and no one could make better use of the knowledge laboriously acquired of Chinese classics and customs than is here disclosed. The book summarizes the scholarship, philosophy, and religious thought of an Empire which has shown itself more capable of perpetuation than any institution ever contrived by man; and it finds here

*THE LORE OF CATHAY; or, The Intellect of China. By W. A. P. Martin, D.D., LL.D., President of the Chinese Imperial University. Chicago: Fleming H. Revell Company.

a student who has so far divested himself of western prejudices as to see beneath the surface to the very heart of a majestic and enduring civilization.

The sequel and complement of a former book from the same hand, "A Cycle of Cathay," it differentiates itself from that standard work, which was concerned with the active life of the Chinese, by dealing almost exclusively with their intellectual life. It is divided into five parts, dealing respectively with the various intellectual departments of the Empire, its literature, its religion and philosophy, its educational methods, and a few studies in Chinese history, — the latter including a consideration of "sources," of the Tartars in ancient China, of international law as the Chinese know it, and of their diplomacy, past and present.

Dr. Martin has no doubt that the invention of gunpowder and the discovery of the magnet as a guide to orientation rest with the ancient Chinese, and cites certain classical works in proof of the antiquity of the knowledge. He believes, too, that the European invention of movable types for printing may be traced, in modified form, to this ancient race. The manufacture of porcelain and silk is undoubtedly Chinese, and they not only invented paper about the beginning of the Christian era, but made wood pulp into paper centuries ago. On the side of science, it is to be said that alchemy, the parent of modern chemistry, is certainly Chinese in its origin; while astronomy has a history going back forty-one centuries in the Middle Kingdom. Decimal arithmetic is also theirs, with a possible beginning as early as 2600 B. C., and a text-book setting forth its principles which is authentically dated 1125 B. C. Dr. Martin shows, moreover, that the modern concept of ether was already a subject of Chinese speculation in the eleventh century before Christ, just as suggestions of both the Baconian and Cartesian philosophy may be found in age-old discourses accepted among Chinese scholars. With interesting details of this sort the book abounds.

Passing over the suggestions of the influence of the Christian religion upon the Chinese mind, in which the author holds a brief for Protestant orthodoxy, the fascinating chapter on Chinese education will be found worthy of careful study. "In no country," we are told, "is the office of teacher more revered. Not only is the living instructor saluted with forms of profoundest respect, but the name of teacher, taken in the abstract, is an object of almost

idolatrous homage." Yet it becomes readily apparent that there are grave defects in the existing system, in which the teacher holds his pupil's esteem by the exercise of what Dr. Martin calls "the argument *a posteriori*," and keeps his little students at work for five full years memorizing the Chinese classics, which are to-day couched in a language the meaning of which is absolutely unknown to them. At the end of that time the period of exegesis sets in, and the minds so carefully exercised by long and meaningless learning by heart are slowly brought to fructification by the translation into the vernacular of all the innumerable syllables with which they are stored. That the Chinese generally are not as well educated as Europeans suppose, is one of many astonishing statements in the book which are made to bear their own conviction with them. If the ability to read and write means what it does with us, hardly one Chinaman in a thousand, and not one Chinawoman in ten thousand, possesses these accomplishments. All can read the syllables as they find them in a book, but few have any knowledge of what they mean; all can write with the copy before them, but very few can indite an original composition; all can cipher sufficiently for their business needs, but there their mathematical knowledge stops abruptly.

Yet China is, emphatically, the land of the scholar. The civil service is in the possession of members of the Republic of Letters to an extent unknown elsewhere, and for that system Dr. Martin professes the utmost respect. Indeed, he would have Christendom take it over in all its essentials.

"The bare suggestion may perhaps provoke a smile; but are not the long duration of the Chinese government, and the vast population to which it has served to secure a fair measure of prosperity, phenomena that challenge admiration? Why should it be considered derogatory to our civilization to copy an institution which is confessedly the masterpiece in that skillful mechanism — the balance-wheel that regulates the working of that wonderful machinery? . . . More congenial to the spirit of our free government, it might be expected to yield better fruits in this country than in China. In British India it works admirably [and in Egypt and the Malayan States even more admirably]. In Great Britain, too, the diplomatic and consular services have been placed on a competitive basis; and something of the same kind must be done for our foreign service if we wish our influence abroad to be at all commensurate with our greatness and prosperity at home. When will our government learn that a good consul is worth more than a man-of-war, and that an able minister is of more value than a whole fleet of iron-clads?"

Dr. Martin commends the Chinese for many

things, but always with discrimination and intelligence. Their ideals of patriotism seem admirable, as they are disclosed to us, and an ode of the late Emperor contains these lines: "To maintain prosperity, we must cherish fear, and rejoice with trembling.

In your new poems, therefore, be slow to extol the vastness of the Empire;

Rather by faithful advice uphold the throne."

The volume abounds with photographs of the scenes mentioned, and the publishers have given it a most attractive outward setting.

WALLACE RICE.

MCCLELLAN AS A GREAT COMMANDER.*

The difficulties under which a democracy conducts war was epitomized in the career of General George B. McClellan, whose *Life* by General Peter S. Michie, the latest addition to Appleton's "Great Commanders" series, attains its greatest value, perhaps, not from what soldiers may learn from its pages as to the proper conduct of campaigns and battles, but from the warnings which McClellan's career gives to presidents, cabinets, bureau officers, and congresses, concerning what civilians in positions of authority and influence should not do. From the settlement of the colonies to the present time, we have never been long without war; and we have so persistently repeated, throughout our colonial and national existence — in the war of the Revolution, in the war of 1812, in the Civil War, and in the recent war with Spain — the error of civilian interference in the conduct of military affairs, that the record as it stands must be attributed less to ignorance of our own history, faulty logic, and hasty mistakes of judgment, than to the impatience of our people, our national traits of character, and our political and social institutions, which are little adapted to the making of war.

McClellan's career is enshrouded in such historical confusion that the sincere biographer, who seeks to account for it by a scientific consideration of all the elements of the case, attempts a most formidable undertaking; and perhaps no man who lived during the Civil War period, who has associated with the participants in the struggle, whose judgment has been influenced by the writings of the survivors of the conflict and disturbed by the conflicting reputations of the "great captains with their guns," can be expected to grapple with the

task in a way thoroughly to satisfy logical readers of the correctness of the explanatory theory at which he may arrive. From the very number of the contentions in regard to McClellan's plans and achievements, it is necessary that his case should be considered freshly, with all the industry required to weigh the evidence, and by a mind gifted and trained in the analytical power of determining which is the vital piece of evidence in the mass of testimony, and what is the weight of the evidence. Much of the confusion and many of the conflicting claims in connection with the military careers of the Civil War are to be directly traced to a want of the analytical power often combined with that defective reasoning which Lord Kelvin has said has lost more vessels than have been sunk by faulty seamanship.

To the doubts and contentions hovering over all McClellan's career, the late General Michie endeavored to apply a simple and readily understood theory. To McClellan, this biography attributes every personal virtue, — high-mindedness, a noble and generous character, lofty patriotism, industry, mastery over details, great capacity for organization, fondness for the study of strategy. The book is also fair to McClellan in its enumeration of the personal and political difficulties with which the army commander had to contend. But it also taxes him with persistent exaggeration of the enemy's strength, with lack of aggressiveness, with timidity, and tactical incapacity. Let us consider some of McClellan's difficulties.

Called to the command of McDowell's defeated army and the troops at Washington immediately after the battle of Bull Run, and assigned to the task of making an army out of a mob, McClellan on the one hand was hindered by the presence of General Scott, who was still at the head of the regular army, and on the other hand by the ignorance of his staff and line officers. The amount of personal work thrown upon him in the organization of the Army of the Potomac, because of the absence of competent subordinate officers, was so prodigious that, strong as he was, he broke down physically under the burden. November 1, 1861, Scott was retired; and McClellan, becoming General-in-Chief, had to consider larger plans than those which related merely to the Army of the Potomac. The whole theatre of the war was under his direction. Very notable at this time was his desire to have General Buell march to the relief of the loyal people of Eastern Tennessee.

*GENERAL MCCLELLAN. By General Peter S. Michie. Illustrated. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

Early in the winter, McClellan was stricken with typhoid fever. Stanton succeeded Cameron as Secretary of War, and the attitude of the department changed from one of cordial support to one of hostility to the army commander. The Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, of which Wade and Chandler were the leading spirits,—a committee of whose star-chamber proceedings, of whose indictments, one-sided trials and convictions of prominent officers, it is difficult to condemn in terms of moderation,—was aggressively hostile to McClellan. The pressure of the politicians was for an immediate advance of the army, fit or unfit; and during the period of McClellan's illness in the early winter, the President, by consulting with several of McClellan's subordinates in the presence of Cabinet officers, tried to formulate by committee a plan of campaign at a season of the year which would have doomed any overland campaign to failure. On January 27, 1862, Mr. Lincoln ordered that a general movement of the Union forces be made on February 22; and for the same day the President ordered a movement of the Army of the Potomac upon the Orange and Alexandria railroad. Finally, Mr. Lincoln was persuaded to abandon his plan of campaign for McClellan's Peninsula plan. It may be said at this time that, coming to Washington in midsummer, McClellan had done everything that could be reasonably expected of him in the few months before the season of bad roads set in, and that thereafter nothing could be undertaken with any chance of success until the roads had again become passable. Had McClellan marched out to the Occoquan, in the fall of 1861, we may safely infer from the career of the Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston—which, from the beginning of his service along the Potomac in Virginia, on the Peninsula, in the Vicksburg campaign, and before Sherman, was uniformly and throughout one of retrogression—that the Confederates would simply have fallen back, and little would have been gained except the marching experience. It is General Michie's view, however, that McClellan should have made the movement.

By the spring of 1862,—that is, before there could be any reasonable hope of a successful general movement of McClellan's army,—the army commander's standing with the President had been so undermined that it was deemed necessary by McClellan, in order to win the President's consent to a movement by way of the Chesapeake Bay to Urbana on the

Rappahannock River, that the plan should be submitted to the approval of his subordinate generals. The nature of the proposition sufficiently indicates the conditions which made it necessary, conditions under which no general could hope to conduct campaigns to a successful issue. On March 8, the President selected for him four corps commanders,—McDowell, Sumner, Heintzelman, and Keyes. Of the degree of capacity indicated and reputation made by these officers, it is sufficient to say that theirs are not among the great names of the war. Sumner and Heintzelman were already well advanced in years; Keyes was soon retired; and McDowell, like McClellan, had already suffered from being expected to do with raw volunteers that which only an organized and disciplined army could accomplish. The President also ordered that McClellan's movement should not be made without leaving in front of Washington a sufficient force for its protection, and that, this being done and the Potomac cleared of the foe, the movement should begin on March 18; and on March 11, the President relieved McClellan of all military departments outside of the Department of the Potomac, an act not calculated to increase the degree of confidence still felt in the General.

It seems now unfortunate that McClellan abandoned his Urbana plan for the movement up the Peninsula between the York and James Rivers, from Fort Monroe as a base. The movement from Urbana would certainly have resulted in the capture or quick retirement of Magruder's forces on the Peninsula below, and would probably have compelled the retirement of Johnston from the immediate vicinity of Washington. But as Johnston retired at this time, of his own volition, to the line of the Rappahannock, we have to consider chiefly the superiority of a movement threatening Magruder's rear, in contrast with the one actually made upon his front. What McClellan's motives were for the change, are not clear. He himself said that the Administration forced the change upon him. The present biographer does not accept this view, but he does not clear up the matter altogether. The confusion continued, not through McClellan's fault, when the General desired to make a flank movement up the York River for the purpose of turning the Confederate position at Yorktown and arriving quickly at West Point on the Richmond and York River Railroad, within thirty miles of Richmond. No adequate coöperation of the navy was arranged for or apparently contem-

plated by the authorities; and McClellan was left to make the best of the direct movement upon Magruder's front.

Once under way, McClellan was furnished with a map prepared by General Wool's topographical engineer, which failed entirely to show that the Warwick River ran across the Peninsula. Behind this stream McClellan found the Confederates entrenched. His own generals and his staff proved unequal to their positions. General Michie says that at Yorktown McClellan encountered the most critical moment in his career,—implying that he should have attacked promptly, instead of settling down to a siege. Undoubtedly he should have attacked. McClellan had much to learn about the practical handling of an army in front of a foe. He had had so far little opportunity to learn. But there is little more reason for considering Yorktown a critical moment in McClellan's career than for thinking Shiloh a critical moment in the careers of Grant and Sherman.

In spite of Yorktown, McClellan, with experience, with better corps commanders such as Meade picked out later for the same army, and with a staff such as Meade was enabled later to develop, might have run the glorious career of a successful general. That he could have rushed into Richmond with the army as it was in the spring of 1862, is not by any means made clear, even if we ignore the opposition of hurrying Confederate reinforcements. That McClellan was steadily improving as a commanding general is shown by his subsequent Antietam campaign, which, in spite of the serious blunder of a weak corps commander of whom McClellan said truly that he was only fitted to command a regiment, was highly successful.

The important question of McClellan's position astride the Chickahominy, and the other question whether the retirement to the James River was voluntary, or was forced upon him by Lee in part and in part was the result of his own timidity, are discussed with every disposition on the part of the biographer to be fair to the army commander; but it is difficult to avoid the impression that General Michie's appreciation of the tactical blunders of McClellan's army—blunders due largely to the lack of practical experience on the part of McClellan and his corps commanders,—and a certain impatience with the resulting faulty manœuvring in the face of the foe, prevented the biographer from giving due value to the

soundness of McClellan's strategical plans. At the same period, and in the same campaign, tactical mistakes were made abundantly in Lee's army by Stonewall Jackson and other Confederate generals. In the Antietam campaign, Lee's strategical movements were of the most dangerous character. In the Gettysburg campaign, his tactics were faulty in the extreme; and, indeed, it was not until the last year of the war that Lee's tactics developed to the point where they would bear the severest scrutiny. McClellan had no such opportunity to learn the art of war.

With every disposition to be just toward the subject of his biography, General Michie early in his book, in his account of the Rich Mountain affair in West Virginia, indicates the attitude of disapproval which he steadily maintains toward all McClellan's movements in the field. Now McClellan's movement upon Rich Mountain was as well planned as Stonewall Jackson's flank march upon Hooker at Chancellorsville; although, of course, the battle at Rich Mountain was on much the smaller scale. But General Michie would take away much credit from McClellan, because it was Rosecrans who, by McClellan's orders, making the flanking movement on the right, discovered the theretofore unknown woods-road which led him to the Confederate flank unobserved. Inasmuch as in the older parts of our country, wherever extensive woods exist, woods-roads are also to be found, McClellan in strict equity cannot be deprived of the credit of his victory because his subordinate, acting under McClellan's orders and moving in the way that McClellan had directed him to go, was so conspicuous an element in the affair.

The presumption in favor of the idea that McClellan's right was extended on the north bank of the Chickahominy for the purpose of connecting with McDowell's force when the latter should move down from the Rappahannock, is so strong that, even if we did not have the emphatic statements of McClellan himself and his confidants in support of it, the minor evidence to the opposite effect does not appear sufficient to overthrow it. The unfortunate position of the army was due to two counter-acting influences at work,—one being McClellan's desire to move to the James, and the other the desire of the civil authorities for a more or less direct covering of Washington. Lee's attack on McClellan's right set the Union commander free to go where he wanted to go. Lee's attack on the Pennsylvania Reserves at

Mechanicsville was made on June 26. But on the 18th McClellan had ordered supplies sent up the James. The movement to the James was already under way when Lee attacked at Mechanicsville, a Union victory which certainly gave McClellan no cause to hurry.

Nor does General Michie appear to give full value to the strategical importance of the battle of South Mountain, the turning-point in the Antietam campaign. The forcing of Turner's Pass was most skilfully and successfully done, and caused Lee to prepare for and consider an immediate retirement to Virginia. Considering the circumstances, the forcing of the mountain pass was promptly done. Lee's "lost orders," which came into McClellan's possession, placed at the pass a Confederate force sufficient to hold it against a host. As a matter of fact, a large part of this force had gone on toward Hagerstown; but of this, McClellan could have no knowledge. Even as it was, the Confederate force left at the pass was sufficient to prevent Cox from gaining the crest to the south of the pass, and Gibbon from making any headway in front of the pass. Meade's successful gaining of the crest by assault on the right compelled Lee to abandon the position. At Fairfield Pass, in July, 1863, a small Confederate rear-guard was sufficient to make so capable a corps commander as Sedgwick, with so large a force as the Sixth Corps, think that the pass could only be forced after long delay; and Sedgwick's decision has never been questioned. In the ensuing battle of Antietam—a wasteful engagement on Lee's part, and one fought after he had seen that his campaign of invasion had come to grief—McClellan only failed of a decisive tactical success because of the well-meaning Burnside's shortcomings as a corps commander. But even then, all the substantial results were with McClellan. Lee's scheme of invading Pennsylvania had been abandoned before. From being the aggressor, he had from South Mountain onward been upon the defensive; and he now abandoned the battle-field and returned to Virginia.

The obvious tactical errors in McClellan's battles—some of these errors due to untrained subordinates and inexperience in actual warfare—should not prevent a due appreciation of his comprehension of larger strategical problems. It looks now as if the greatest error in all his campaigns was committed by the civil authorities in bringing his army away from the James. General Lee never forgot what McClellan's threat pointed out to him, and before

Grant's 1864 campaign was under way wrote to President Davis of the possibility that the Union forces might cut the Weldon Railroad and compel the evacuation of Petersburg and the downfall of Richmond.

General Michie suggests that longer experience might have eliminated McClellan's faults as a tactician,—a suggestion which will also be found in my earlier "Life of General Meade" in the same series. McClellan's claim to be remembered, according to his present biographer, will rest upon his organization of the Army of the Potomac,—a stupendous work, performed under many difficulties. Important as McClellan's work was, the organization of the Army of the Potomac did not reach a state approaching perfection until the spring of 1864, by which time the inadequate staff and corps commanders had been gotten rid of, and Meade's orders were elaborated by so able a chief of staff as Humphreys, and executed by such competent corps commanders as Hancock, Sedgwick, and Warren. But to the foundation of McClellan's claim to the gratitude of his country should be added his successful Antietam campaign,—the five most vital battles of the war (apart from sieges like the Siege of Vicksburg), being Gettysburg, South Mountain and Antietam (considered together), Nashville, Champion Hill (which decided that Pemberton should be shut up in Vicksburg), and Chattanooga. This list throws the names of Meade, McClellan, Thomas, and Grant, among Civil War generals, into prominence for having rendered the most conspicuous service to the Union in the hour of most vital need. Overshadowed by Gettysburg,—as it always will be, and justly,—still, the importance of the Antietam campaign will some day be better appreciated than it is now.

ISAAC R. PENNYPACKER.

A COMPOSITE AMERICAN HISTORY.*

With the appearance of the fourth volume, covering the years 1845 to 1900, Professor Hart's story of American development as told by contemporary writers is completed.

The design of the series was an excellent one to begin with, and the manner of elabor-

* AMERICAN HISTORY TOLD BY CONTEMPORARIES. Edited by Albert Bushnell Hart. Volume I., Era of Colonization, 1492-1689; Volume II., Building of the Republic, 1689-1783; Volume III., National Expansion, 1783-1845; Volume IV., Welding of the Nation, 1845-1900. New York: The Macmillan Co.

ating it has been such as to give these four volumes a secure place among the books of permanent value to all who are interested in American history. The objects sought by the editor were two:

"First, to put within convenient reach of schools, libraries, and scholars authoritative texts of rare or quaint writings in American history contemporary with the events which they describe, and in the second place, to give, in a succession of scenes, a notion of the movement and connection of the history of America, so that from this work by itself may be had an impression of the forces which have shaped our history and the problems upon which they have worked."

The success of such an undertaking demanded that the reader should feel absolutely sure of the genuineness of the extracts given, and, furthermore, that he should have the utmost confidence in the discriminating judgment of the editor. As to the latter point there is probably little doubt, considering Professor Hart's place among students of American history; and for the former strict rules were followed:

"First of all, pains have been taken to use the first authoritative edition of each work in English; and a faithful translation of pieces in foreign languages. Next, the copy is meant to be exact. . . . Words not easily recognized are, however, repeated in modern dress in brackets. Next, the quotations are meant to be exact, all omissions being indicated, and the place where the extract was found being noted at the end."

The result of the study is found in the twenty-five hundred pages of gathered gleanings from diaries, letters, reports, discussions, reminiscences, addresses, newspapers, magazines, and other sources of materials, some manuscripts being available for the more recent period. Official documents find no place, these having been collated by Preston, Macdonald, and others, but the expression of opinion throughout the years is clearly shown by the wide range of selection, the philosophy of "Mr. Dooley" and the words of popular songs being presented along with the sounding sentences of some great oration or the studied argument upon some great theme of present moment. And so the volumes may be considered not alone a compendium of history, but also a study in American literature, showing in a wonderfully interesting way the changes and improvement in American writing, spelling, and thinking during nearly three hundred years.

The latest volume, finishing the series, was no doubt the most difficult in preparation, being nearest to the life activity of many yet living, and the selection of materials to illustrate the

history of the last twenty years must have been a peculiarly trying task. Upon some questions public opinion is not yet settled, and twenty years hence a selection made in 1901 may be rejected as entirely unrepresentative, whereas the judgment of history probably has been finally passed upon the great topics of the periods illustrated by the first, second, and third volumes.

An idea of the skill and resources of the editor may be gained by a study of Part IX., which is devoted to recent American problems. The five chapters discuss the Spanish War, Questions of Colonization, Foreign Problems, Problems of Government, and Social Problems; and the names of writers include Admiral Dewey, Captain Mahan, Ex-Secretary Day, Governor Leonard Wood, President McKinley, Ex-Secretary Richard Olney, President Roosevelt, Ex-Secretary Carl Schurz, Mr. Jacob A. Riis, Mr. Henry W. Grady, President Eliot, and Mr. Booker T. Washington. Not everyone may agree with Professor Hart regarding the final value of the selections printed, but the names just specified will convince any critic that an honest effort has been made to choose representative literature of the present day.

The obligation due the editor for the series is great, and as the volumes become more and more familiar in private study and public library, the feeling of appreciation will steadily increase.

FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON.

MEMOIRS OF AN AMERICAN ACTRESS.*

A theatrical memoir of more than ordinary interest, owing to the eventful and highly interesting career of its author, is "Life on the Stage," which sets forth the personal experiences and recollections of Miss Clara Morris. Her career was most eventful, in the ordinary acceptance of the term; it was full of many and diverse interests, and the real measure of her ultimate success can only be estimated when all these interests are taken into account.

Miss Morris was born at Toronto on a certain 17th of March in the early fifties; but six months completed her period of existence in the Dominion. Her early life in the States was not altogether free from hardship and poverty, and there is a pathetic strain in her narrative as she tells of the early struggles—

* LIFE ON THE STAGE. By Clara Morris. With portrait. New York: McClure, Phillips & Co.

the sad neglect of a faithless father and the untiring toil of a loving mother. When thirteen years of age she went on the stage as a ballet-girl, taking part in the marches and dances of a play called "The Seven Sisters," for which service she received the munificent sum of three dollars a week. Step by step she advanced in her profession, and as the years crept by she became possessed of a broader and more comprehensive view of the drama; standing humbly at the knee of Shakespeare, she began to learn something of another world — fairy-like in fascination, marvellous in reality. It is to be remembered that at about this time Forrest, crowned and wrapped in royal robes, was yet tottering on his throne; Charlotte Cushman was the Tragic Queen of the stage; James Murdoch, highly esteemed, was still acting; Joseph Jefferson, E. L. Davenport, Charles Cudock, J. K. Hackett, Maggie Mitchell, and Matilda Heron were numbered among the popular favorites; and Edwin Booth, the greatest light of all, was rising in golden glory in the East.

In comparing the actor of forty years ago with the actor of to-day, Miss Morris makes a statement which will elicit protest from many quarters.

"Looking back to the actors of '65, I can't help noticing the difference between their attitude of mind toward their profession and that of the actor of to-day. Salaries were much smaller then, work was harder, but life was simpler. The actor had no social standing; he was no longer looked down upon, but he was an unknown quantity; he was, in short, an actor pure and simple. He had enthusiasm for his profession — he lived to act, not merely living by acting. He had more superstition than religion and no politics at all; but he was patriotic and shouldered his gun and marched away in the ranks as cheerfully as any other citizen soldier. But above all and beyond all else, the men and women respected their chosen profession. Their constant association of mind with Shakespeare seemed to have given them a certain dignity of bearing as well as of speech. To-day our actors have in many cases won some social recognition, and they must therefore give a portion of their time to social duties. They are club-men, and another portion of their time goes in club lounging. They draw large salaries and too frequently they have to act in long running plays, that are made up of smartish wit and cheapest cynicism — mere froth and frivolity, — while the effective smashing of the Seventh Commandment has been for so long a time the principal *motif* of both drama and farce that one cannot wonder much at the general tone of flippancy prevailing among theatrical people of to-day. . . . They are sober, they are honest, they are generous, but they seem to have grown utterly flippant, and I can't help wondering if this alteration can have come about through the change in their mental pabulum. At all events, as I watched and listened in the old days, it seemed to me that they were never weary of discussing readings,

expressions, emphasis, and action. One would remark, say at a rehearsal of 'Hamlet,' that Macready gave a certain line in this manner, and another would instantly express a preference for a Forrest — or a Davenport — reading, and then the argument would be on, and only a call to the stage would end the weighing of words, the placing of commas, etc."

It was in her third season that Miss Morris's position became an anomalous one; it showed that in the girl there dwelt a latent spark of genius waiting to be fanned into a flame. She studied in one afternoon, letter perfect, the part of *King Charles* in "Faint Heart Never Won Fair Lady," and played it, in borrowed clothes, without any rehearsal whatever. This was followed by a greater success when she appeared in an adaptation of "La Maison Rouge" in support of that sterling actress, Miss Sallie St. Clair — wife of Charles Barrae, the wealthy and eccentric author of the "Black Crook."

"All girls have their gods. Some girls change theirs often. My gods were few. Sometimes I cast one down, but I never changed them; and on the highest, whitest pedestal of all, grave and gentle, stood the god of my professional idolatry — Edwin Booth." And when the great actor played *Hamlet* in Mr. John A. Ellsler's company, the author of these interesting memoirs received the greatest surprise of her girlhood days, when, in looking over the proposed cast, she saw the entry: "Queen Gertrude — Miss Morris." But, notwithstanding that he looked more like her father than she like *Hamlet's* mother, she added another successful rôle to her fast-increasing repertory.

"It would seem like a presumption for me to try to add one little leaf to the tight-woven laurel crown he wore. Everyone knows the agony of his 'Fool's Revenge,' the damnable malice of his *Iago*, the beauty and fire of *Antonio*, and the pure perfection of his *Hamlet*, — but how many knew the slow, cruel martyrdom of his private life! which he bore with such mute patience that in my heart there is an altar raised to the memory of that Saint Edwin of many sorrows, who was known and envied by the world at large, as the great actor, Edwin Booth."

After a short engagement in Cincinnati as leading lady, Miss Morris signed a contract with Augustin Daly, and gained the proud distinction of being the first Western actress accepted by a New York audience. She was likewise the first actress who attempted with any degree of success the modern French emotional drama: her success in the rôle of *Alize* is one of the memorable incidents of New York theatrical history. She was, however, to our mind, much better fitted for parts

requiring stormy and passionate acting than for pathetic scenes.

It is impossible to trace minutely Miss Morris's career under the managerial guidance of Daly and Palmer. Needless to add, her wide acquaintance with theatrical celebrities, her ability to depict their habits, talk, manners, disposition, and appearance, with the exactness of reality, combine to render her book fascinating and instructive. Her style is graphic, fluent, and luminous; she has an exquisite appreciation of wit and wisdom; and her veneration for contemporary actors and actresses, combined as it is with the most uncommon perspicacity, is an additional qualification. Her volume does not belong to that class of theatrical memoirs which know no distinction — her life was not devoid of striking events and her career was one of triumph; thus there was full scope for narrative, criticism, and personal reminiscence, which forms a book of human, tender, and personal interest.

INGRAM A. PYLE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

*South Africa's
material resources.*

Nearly all of the books written by Englishmen concerning the South African war might be listed under the general title of "The Price We Are Paying." "What We Are Getting" will perhaps better serve as a designation for Mr. W. Bleloch's "The New South Africa: Its Value and Development" (Doubleday). It is a general survey of the natural wealth of the Transvaal Republic and Orange Free State, as seen by a man of wide acquaintance with those two countries, coupled with an inquiry into the social conditions of the Burghers, the Uitlanders, and the Kaffirs, as they are likely to exist at the anticipated conclusion of hostilities. Mr. Bleloch, it is not necessary to insist, is an enthusiastic British partisan, and a believer in the leadership of Messrs. Cecil Rhodes and Joseph Chamberlain. He finds it necessary, therefore, to omit all reference to the liberal movement among the Burghers of the Transvaal which came within a few hundred votes of electing the late General Joubert over President Krueger in 1893, and was increasing in strength daily until the Jameson outrage put an absolute end to internal reforms and left Mr. Krueger the practically unanimous choice of the Republic in 1898. Mr. Bleloch is also a voluntary witness to the conspiracy against the British in general, which is so positively denied by Messrs. Brice, Gooch, and others. It may be added that he is an optimist of no mean order, as may be seen from such statements as "The successful result of the War . . . has fully justified the cost," which

he estimates at less than £150,000,000; "England has entrenched her position among the nations by the War"; and "If the whole cost of the War had to be borne by the British people, they would have gained by having kept intact that force in the world which is theirs, and which it ought to be their steadfast and proudest aim to maintain." It is perhaps idle to censure historical faults in a book which is avowedly "an unofficial prospectus of the work which lies before the British administration in the new Colonies," for there can be no doubt of the value which its contents afford to those who are seeking wealth in South Africa, assuming that Great Britain finally develops a policy which will make such a quest possible. The gold deposits occupy six chapters; the coal fields another; diamonds and other minerals, dynamite and land, each one more; immigration, the Uitlanders, the Boers, and the black natives, each one; while separate sections of the narrative are given up to "Industry and Commerce," "The Railways," "Summary of Resources and Crown Assets," "The Present and Future Administration," "The Fiscal Policy — Capacity to Pay Part of the War Debt," and a separate consideration of the Orange Free State under its new title of the "Orange River Colony." The work concludes with an extended series of appendices, made up for the most part of the statistics necessary to support the contentions of the several chapters; and there is an index.

*An attempted
revival of
phrenology.*

In an illustrated volume of five hundred pages, Dr. Bernard Hollander expounds "The Mental Functions of the Brain" (Putnam), with the purpose of showing that the results of modern research all tend to reinstate the conclusions of the early phrenologists. This "first work of the subject since the dawn of modern scientific research" is indeed a curious conglomerate of latter-day knowledge, of distorted interpretations of clinical evidence, of far-fetched and one-sided presentations of questionable observations, and of a profound lack of appreciation of modern logic as a scientific implement. It is true enough, and is well pointed out by the author, that the merits of Gall as an anatomist and physiologist of his day are considerable, that many of the extreme forms of quackery practised under the name of phrenology are not traceable to him or to the doctrines to which his teachings properly led, that some of the results of the phrenologists find analogies in the results of the modern "localizationists," — and yet it is still truer that the spirit and results of phrenology at its best are totally out of relation with the spirit and the results of that form of intellectual endeavor from which the ripe and nutritious fruits of science have sprung. It is so easy to produce a travesty of the facts and arguments of science, — of which, indeed, this able and painstaking work is a remarkable example; the line that divides truth from error, the sublime from the ridiculous, is often so tortuous and indistinct

that it requires the most careful and trained scrutiny to distinguish the boundaries of the two. It is this power that forms one of the goals of a real education. It may be that somewhere in the arbitrary and logic-less teachings of phrenology is to be found much of the cream of science; but if so, it is safe to say that the cream has turned sour.

*An echo from
Arden Forest.*

"How Jacques Came into the Forest of Arden" is the title of an attractive little hand-made book lately issued from the Blue Sky Press, Chicago. This "impertinence," as its author, Mrs. Elia W. Peattie, modestly calls it, is an original bit of reading between Shakespeare's lines, or rather between his acts. Jacques, for once garrulous and lucid at the same moment, stretches Arden-fashion in the shade and explains himself to Amiens, taking as his text that oracular reply of his to Rosalind's scornful arraignment: "Yes, I have gained my experience." It is a strange tale he has to tell, — of the Lady Lucinda, whose wondrous "moonlit beauty" drove him mad first for love and then for hate, of the revenge he took upon her, and the farewell of her that brought him, curt-tongued and melancholic, to share the Duke's exile; and in the main he tells it as Jacques should. One wishes, to be sure, that he had once again "met a fool i' the forest," and been made to unburden himself to Touchstone in riddles as of old. It is hard to fancy Jacques, the *poseur*, the lover of two-edged words, suddenly grown quite so frank and simple or so tolerant of Amiens's humble understanding. But out of this too-mellowed urbanity the old Jacques breaks every now and then with a gibe or an epigram polished to his own delightful shine. And the little idyl is touched throughout with the spirit of Arden Forest. One wishes there were more of this sort of Shakespearean comment. The book is made to fit its contents, with antique board covers, hand-illuminated initials, and some dainty pen drawings, which add much to its quaint charm.

*A famous
periodical
in facsimile.*

It has been known for several years that Mr. Elliot Stock, the London publisher, was at work upon a reprint in facsimile of "The Germ," that most interesting and most inaccessible of all fugitive periodicals. Indeed the project was formed nearly twenty years ago; but it was found that certain of the magazine's contributors were averse to having their youthful writings resurrected in this way, and it became necessary to postpone publication until expirations of copyright should make such minor objections unavailing. The original editor of "The Germ," Mr. William M. Rossetti, was one of the first who consented to the enterprise (representing also his more famous brother and sister in the matter), and was engaged to contribute an Introduction to the edition. In the form in which it is finally issued, Mr. Stock's reprint bears evidence that the years of delay have been utilized to perfect the work in

every detail, and it would be difficult to say wherein it could now be improved. The frontispiece etchings and outside wrappers are reproduced by photographic process; the text is reprinted from type, following the original line for line and letter for letter, typographical errors included. The four numbers of the magazine are loosely enclosed in a handsome case of paper-covered boards, bearing the title in gilt on back and side. Mr. Rossetti's Introduction, filling some twenty-five closely-printed pages, is contained in a separate pamphlet of uniform size. Coming from the pen of one more intimately acquainted with the history of "The Germ" than any other man now living, it must be at once accepted as the most authoritative, as it certainly is the fullest, account of this "amazing publication" that has yet appeared. It is needless to say that through this successful undertaking, Mr. Stock has placed every student of Victorian literature in his debt. In the matter of price, there is a difference of some hundreds of dollars between this reprint and a set of the original magazine; as regards actual desirability there is no other than a purely sentimental difference. The 250 copies imported for sale in America bear the imprint of Mr. Thomas B. Mosher, who will be remembered as the publisher of the beautiful edition (in no sense a facsimile) of "The Germ" issued in 1898, and long since out of print.

*A study of
English words.*

In Messrs. Greenough and Kittredge's "Words and their Ways in English Speech" (Macmillan) we have a history of the development of the English language in which the authors strike out boldly into new and hitherto little-trodden paths. A large part of the histories of Lounsbury and Emerson, for example, is given up to the matter of inflections. In the work before us, however, inflections are disposed of in a dozen pages; while the book includes discussions of such topics as "Language as Poetry," "Fossils," "Generalization and Specialization of Meaning," "Transference of Meaning," "Degeneration of Meaning," "Euphemism," words from animal, place, and personal names, and the like. Such chapters, filled with such a wealth of illustration, could not have been written a few years ago, and show what a debt we owe the workers on the great Historical English Dictionary and other philologists whom that book has stimulated to undertake special investigations of our speech. The authors have not been slow to incorporate the results of the most recent studies, especially those of the science of meanings. And they have not merely copied etymologies; we find here several independent studies of the changes words have undergone. Throughout the book one sees traces of the professor of Latin, and one cannot help feeling that the book is decidedly the better from the fact that its subject-matter has been scrutinized from two points of view, that of the English and that of the Latin specialist. In expounding the principles which

have governed the development of our complex language, and in revealing the wealth of its vocabulary and explaining the sources of that wealth, the writers have been eminently successful. Whether the book will prove a satisfactory college text-book can be better told a year hence; but as a popular though accurate exposition of a subject which has always been of the utmost importance, and which no one can now pronounce uninteresting, we do not hesitate to call it the ablest work which has yet appeared in its field.

Religious progress in the last century.

"Great Religions of the World" (Harper & Brothers) is the title of a collection of essays by eleven different writers. Some of the most prominent of the papers are "Confucianism" by Dr. Giles of Cambridge, "Buddhism" by Dr. Rhys Davids of London, "Brahminism" by Sir A. C. Lyall, "Positivism" by Frederic Harrison, "Sikhism" by Sir Lepel Griffin, "Jews and Judaism" by Dr. M. Gaster, "The Outlook of Christianity" by Washington Gladden, and "Catholic Christianity" by Cardinal Gibbons. The treatment of the themes is very uneven and of unequal value. Some are discussed historically, such as Sikhism and Babism, while others are a recital of the doctrines and power of the faith under survey. Of the eleven papers embodied in the volume, six — possibly seven — only can be counted as dealing with "great religions of the world." These are Confucianism, Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Brahminism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Judaism. Of these seven, the essay on Confucianism is a fair presentation of the growth of that faith in the last century. Dr. Davids pictures the recent spread and power of Buddhism in the East. Mohammedanism is set before us in all its glory as seen in its conquests during the last few decades. The essay on Zoroastrianism is both historical and doctrinal in treatment. Dr. Gladden's "Outlook of Christianity" is a presentation of figures, numerical and geographical, of Christendom, and the modifications of doctrines and beliefs brought about by the investigations of recent years. Dr. Gaster's essay pictures in vivid terms the struggles for liberty through which the Jews have passed, especially on the continent of Europe within the last century. Such a collection of essays has its value, but the disparity in methods and purpose of presentation is too great to give it first place among books on the great religions of the world.

The life and letters of two English musicians.

"Brother Musicians," a brief biography of Edward and Walter Bache written by their sister, is an unpretentious record of the lives of two gifted Englishmen. It is somewhat belated in appearance, as the elder brother died in 1858, and the younger in 1888, but it has the interest which always belongs to the story of genius triumphing over difficulties. The brothers' letters to their family from Leipzig,

Rome, and other musical centres, make up a considerable part of the volume. These letters give entertaining and often intimate glimpses of Wagner, Liszt, and many lesser musicians, as well as a quite unconscious revelation of the refined, enthusiastic natures of the brothers themselves, and the unselfishness of their devotion to the cause of music. Edward Bache's letters on the advantages to a city of placing the best orchestral music within the reach of the poor deserve a place in the literature of philanthropy as well as of music. His comparison of the Wagnerian and Italian schools is also valuable for its clearness, though perhaps too premature to be sound in theory. A peculiar interest is given to the book by the fact that, in spite of similarity of character and early training, the Bache brothers took wholly different paths in music. Edward was a composer and followed the old school, believing that after Beethoven's death music in Germany "had taken a false direction." His own early death at twenty-five rendered futile his ambition to create an English opera founded on the Italian. Walter was a pianist and teacher, and an ardent follower of the newer school. He is remembered as the champion and interpreter of Liszt's music in England. The volume is published by Messrs. James Pott & Co.

Welsh history and a great Welsh hero.

Mr. A. G. Bradley's recent work on "Highways and Byways in North Wales" showed that author's aptitude and enthusiasm in the treatment of Welsh history. The latest effort of his facile pen in the same direction is a volume on Owen Glyndwr, in Putnam's "Heroes of the Nations" series. The first eighty pages are a condensed history of Wales from its first historic records down to 1400, or from 400-1400. The brevity of the treatment makes this section quite unsatisfactory to the reader. Such condensation is always a hazardous undertaking. But the body of the book, on the other hand, treating of the last struggle for Welsh independence as led by Owen Glyndwr, is rather diluted. On the whole, however, the author has written an interesting narrative, has deftly woven in the facts of history and many of the popular traditions of the hero, so as to bring out with great prominence some of the best elements of Welsh valor, persistency, and endurance. One cannot read this volume without gaining a new conception of the character of the Welsh people, particularly in their valiant and vain struggle against the aggressions of the kings of England. The book is well-illustrated by half-tone cuts of some of the most famous castles of Wales, that figured prominently in the wars of Owen Glyndwr.

Village life and antiquities in England.

Students of archaeology and antiquarian lore (may their tribe increase!) will find a book quite to their liking in "English Villages" (James Pott & Co.), by the Rev. Peter Hampson Ditchfield, F.S.A.,

F.R.H.S.; for the author thereof writes entertainingly upon a subject with which he is thoroughly acquainted. He has written within the last decade, besides "The Story of Our English Towns," several books upon rural life in England and upon old English sports and customs. The avowed purpose of the present volume is to call attention to the richness of the English villages, not only in mediæval relics, but, in many cases, in Roman remains and in prehistoric monuments; to exhibit the process by which the part of the "scientific detective" may be undertaken by the ordinary student, and what facts concerning primitive man in England may be developed from an investigation of the *tumuli*, barrows, pit and pile dwellings, cromlechs, camps, and earthworks, to be found scattered throughout the island. Nor does he slight the historic periods and the features of village life in "Merrie England" which are of never-failing interest. Full-page illustrations, and text cuts to the number of one hundred, enhance both the appearance of the book and the author's treatment of his subject.

A black portrait of Turkey's ruler.

The startling and sometimes almost incredible revelations offered in "The Private Life of the Sultan" (Appleton) are, naturally enough, pseudonymous in authorship. "George Dorys," as is explained in the translator's preface, is the assumed name of the son of the late Prince of Samos, one of Abdul-Hamid's ministers and sometime governor of Crete. The author thus had abundant opportunity to gain inside information, and he appears to write from personal knowledge. Terrible is the picture he draws of the man whom Gladstone called "the great assassin." The charitable reader will hope that this despot is really not quite so fiendishly cruel and cunning as he is represented. Other and less forbidding portraits of him incline one to suspect that Mr. Dorys may have written in a mood not wholly free from prejudice. But the truth would seem to be almost as hard to get at as is the Sultan himself in his double and triple walled seclusion. His elaborate precautions against assassination, his childish fear of the dark, and his abject dread of death, certainly bespeak something other than "a still and quiet conscience." This volume maintains the high standard of interest and excellence of workmanship of the "Lives of Royalties" series in which it appears.

Some intimate sketches of famous New Englanders.

Mr. William C. Todd, president of the New Hampshire Historical Society, is the author of a volume of "Biographical and Other Articles" (Lee & Shepard), dealing with Daniel Webster, Caleb Cushing, and others, largely New Englanders, whose lives have been of moment in American history. The material here gathered together has been in considerable degree a part of the personal experience of the writer, and so, while gaining in authenticity and personal nearness, they are but incomplete

portraits that he presents. Although as a whole the book is inorganic, there is in it a great deal of valuable matter, which it needed only a more pleasing literary style to make extremely interesting. An account of "A Summer in Norway," and the chapter entitled "Some Persons I Have Seen," have rather less of the stilted literary quality of a bygone day; but here as elsewhere the author's sense of values does not seem to be very sure. Such information as the volume contains is of a sort not easily accessible; much, perhaps, is not to be found elsewhere; and it is to be regretted that there is no index to make its real wealth of anecdote and story more available.

BRIEFER MENTION.

It would be unreasonable to ask for a handsomer school edition of the "Æneid" than is provided by Dr. Charles Knapp in his recently published volume. The first six books are given complete, and are followed by extracts from the six remaining ones. There is an introduction, historical, biographical, critical, and syntactical, of one hundred pages. There are copious notes (with the text) and a vocabulary. Interspersed among the books of the epic are full-page plates of famous works of ancient sculpture. The whole is bound in half-leather of restful dark green. Our only quarrel with the book is that it sanctions the wanton pedantry of the spelling "Vergil." Messrs. Scott, Foresman & Co. are the publishers.

Through "The Mighty Deep and What We Know of It" (Lippincott), by Miss Agnes Giberne, a fair conception of the new science of oceanography and its aims and achievements may be had, set in language sufficiently popular to appeal to those wholly ignorant of its existence. With the discussions of the tides and their causes, the salt in the ocean and its sources, glaciers, the great ocean currents and several similar phenomena, the physical geographies have made us familiar. But in the descriptions of the curious animals dredged from vast depths, the varied proofs of the existence of active life in even the profoundest valleys covered by the sea, and the habits of sea monsters of every size and most extraordinary shape, Miss Giberne finds an almost undiscovered country for the information of her readers. Numerous illustrations, of rather unequal value, add to the interest of the volume.

There is a great deal of pathos in a life that is in some way devoted to the interest of culture while never attaining culture for itself. Some such sense of the irony of fate must come to one who reads Mr. E. Marston's "Sketches of Booksellers of Other Days" (imported by Scribner), so pitifully outside the currents of thought and feeling fed by the books they sold do many of them seem. The sketches cover a period from the middle of the seventeenth century to the year of Waterloo, and contain a great many things to interest the curious. The miseries of apprenticeship are more than hinted at and the stern economy of one who would rise from poverty to a competence are told again and again. Though the sketches are in the main but personal histories touching little upon the larger concerns of men, they have a very real interest for those who care to know so much of the setting of authors' lives two centuries ago.

NOTES.

"Lessons in Elementary Grammar," by Mr. George A. Mirick, is a recent school publication of the Macmillan Co.

"Latin Composition Based upon Selections from Cæsar," by Professor Benjamin L. D'Ooge, is a recent publication of Messrs. Ginn & Co.

"The Book of the Greenhouse," by Mr. J. C. Tallack, is the second volume in the series of "Handbooks of Practical Gardening," published by Mr. John Lane.

The B. F. Johnson Publishing Co., Richmond, Virginia, send us a school text of "Macaulay's Essays on Milton and Addison," edited by Professor C. Alphonso Smith.

"Cicero: Select Orations," edited by Professor Benjamin L. D'Ooge, is an addition to "The Student's Series of Latin Classics" published by Messrs. Benjamin H. Sanborn & Co.

A new translation, supplied with original illustrations, of "Sintram and his Companions" is published by the J. B. Lippincott Co. in a dainty little volume. Mr. A. M. Richards is the translator.

"Original Investigation; or, How to Attack an Exercise in Geometry," by Mr. Elisha S. Loomis, is a small book which will be found useful by teachers of mathematics. Messrs. Ginn & Co. are the publishers.

"Elementary Experimental Chemistry" is a textbook and laboratory manual for secondary schools. It deals with inorganic chemistry only, and is the work of Professor W. F. Watson. Messrs. A. S. Barnes & Co. are the publishers.

A translation of Tasso's "Amyntas," (but not the first, as the title-page claims), has been made by Mr. Frederic Whitmore, and published at the Ridgewood Press, Springfield, Mass. It makes an oblong pamphlet, and is prettily illustrated.

"The Story of Books," by Miss Gertrude Barford Rawlings, is an addition to the Messrs. Appletons' "Library of Useful Stories." It is mainly a popular account of mediæval libraries and the work of the early presses, with numerous illustrations.

Mr. Gerald H. Rendall's "Marcus Aurelius Antoninus to Himself" is now published by the Macmillan Co. in the familiar "Golden Treasury" form. The translation has been revised and the introduction abridged, the book aiming at the general reader rather than at the student.

Walter Bagehot's essay on "Shakespeare the Man" is reprinted by Messrs. McClure, Phillips & Co. in a volume which is rather striking in its mechanical make-up, and is remarkable for its inexpensiveness. Bagehot is such good reading that we hope for more of him in this form.

Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co. publish the seventh edition of Mr. C. W. C. Oman's "History of Greece from the Earliest Times to the Death of Alexander the Great." The work has been revised throughout, and even draws upon such recent material as the Cretan discoveries of Mr. Evans.

A volume on "Russian Political Institutions," by Maxime Kovalevsky, formerly Professor of Public Law at the University of Moscow, is announced for publication this month by the University of Chicago Press. The work is based upon a series of lectures delivered at the University last summer.

The beautiful typography of the Merrymount Press adorns Professor John Franklin Genung's thoughtful essay on "Stevenson's Attitude to Life," which the Messrs. Crowell have made into a thin volume. It is a pleasure to read such a book as this, and a further pleasure to own it and see it lying on the table.

Of editions of Boswell's "Life of Johnson" there are seemingly no end. The latest on our list comes from the J. B. Lippincott Co., in six handsome library volumes, edited by Mr. Augustine Birrell. The special feature of this edition is a series of portraits, about one hundred in number, selected with great care by Mr. Ernest Radford.

The "Centiloquio" of Santillana is a Spanish text, edited, with educational intent, by Messrs. Fernando Staud y Ximenez and Hubert M. Skinner. There are notes and a vocabulary for the student. An appendix gives a selection of Spanish proverbs, in both the original and translation. Messrs. Laird & Lee are the publishers of this welcome little book.

What will form the first complete edition of Thomas Kyd's extant works is about to be published by the Oxford University Press. Mr. F. S. Boas, who has edited the works from the original texts, states in his Preface that in the recent study of Pre-Shakespearean literature there has been no more marked feature, especially on the Continent, than the increased prominence given to Kyd.

Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. send us ten new volumes in their dainty "What Is Worth While" series. Among the titles are "The Meaning and Value of Poetry," by Mr. W. H. Hudson; "Standeth God within the Shadow," by President D. S. Jordan; "Ecclesiastes and Omar Khayyám," by Professor J. F. Genung; "The Greatness of Patience," by President A. T. Hadley; and "Religion in Common Life," by the late Principal Caird.

"The Lyric and Dramatic Poems of John Milton," edited by Professor Martin W. Sampson, is the latest number of the "English Readings" published by Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. The introductory essay is elaborate, as is usual in the books of this excellent series, and the notes are almost equal in volume to the text. A collection of "Questions and Comments" and an appendix on "Milton's Metres" complete the apparatus of this edition.

Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. publish in this country "The Self-Educator Series," an English enterprise under the editorship of Mr. John Adams of Glasgow. There are four volumes now issued: "Latin," by Mr. W. A. Edward; "Chemistry," by Mr. James Knight; and "French" and "German," both by the general editor of the series. The aim of these books is explained by their title, although there is no reason why they should not be used in schools as well as at home.

Mr. Charles Welsh, who has made practically a life study of the subject of children's reading, has now nearly completed a "Young Folks Library" of the world's best literature for children. The work will comprise twenty volumes, containing altogether more than one thousand selections from every department of literature. The selections in each volume have been approved by well-known specialists, who have also provided the Introductions, and the whole work has been submitted to the final critical judgment of Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich. The Hall & Locke Co. of Boston are named as the publishers of this important undertaking.

"The Love Letters of Abelard and Heloise," reprinted from the anonymous translation of Watt's edition of 1722, forms a particularly acceptable volume in the "Temple Classics" (Macmillan). Miss Honnor Morten, who edits the edition, has elucidated the text with a number of valuable notes. Another recent volume in the same series is a metrical translation by Mr. Arthur S. Way of "The Tale of the Argonauts" by Apollonius of Rhodes. Both volumes are supplied with the usual dainty frontispiece in photogravure.

The collection of "Lives of the English Saints," as written by various hands at the suggestion of Cardinal Newman, is republished by the Messrs. Lippincott in a very attractive six-volume edition. This is the first complete reprint of the work since the original publication of 1844-5. The editorial introduction is by Mr. Arthur Wollaston Hutton. Each volume has one or two portrait illustrations, the subjects being modern scholars and churchmen. We note particularly the fine portraits of J. A. Froude and Mark Pattison.

Two volumes of more than ordinary literary interest will be issued shortly by Mr. John Lane. One of the two is Mr. William Archer's collection of critical essays on "The Poets of the Younger Generation"; the other is an elaborate work on "Jane Austen: Her Homes and her Friends," by Miss Constance Hill. The illustrations will be a special feature of each book, consisting in the former case of thirty-three portraits engraved on wood by Mr. Robert Bryden, and in the latter of drawings by Miss Ellen G. Hill and several photogravure portraits.

TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.

November, 1901.

Africa, Development of. S. P. Verner. *Forum*.
 Alpine and Marsh Garden, Suggestions for an. Lippincott.
 Animal and Vegetable Rights. Rupert Hughes. *Harper*.
 Argonne, In. Charles Bastide. *Atlantic*.
 Asia's Political and Commercial Future. W. C. J. Reid. *For*.
 Assassination of Kings and Presidents. J. M. Buckley. *Cent*.
 Athenian Conceptions of Future Life. Daniel Quinn. *Harper*.
 Athletics, Ancient and Modern, Ethics of. Price Collier. *For*.
 Automobile Race, Paris to Berlin. W. Wellman. *McClure*.
 Cahow, Story of. A. E. Verrill. *Popular Science*.
 Caricaturist, Confessions of a. Harry Furniss. *Harper*.
 China, Agriculture in. Charles Denby. *Forum*.
 Christmas Island, Romance of. S. B. Rand. *McClure*.
 College, The Small, and the Large. C. F. Thwing. *Forum*.
 Colonial Boyhood, A. Kate M. Cone. *Atlantic*.
 Cougar-Hunting. Theodore Roosevelt. *Scribner*.
 Crispi and Italian Unity. Karl Blind. *Forum*.
 Dunkers, Among the. Nelson Lloyd. *Scribner*.
 Education, National Control of. John Gorst. *Popular Science*.
 Europe and America. Sydney Brooks. *Atlantic*.
 Fiction of 1901. Talcott Williams. *Review of Reviews*.
 Filipinos, Viewpoint of the. H. L. Hawthorne. *Rev. of Revs.*
 Fishes of Japan. David S. Jordan. *Popular Science*.
 Funeral, My Own. George Moore. *Lippincott*.
 Game, The Awakening concerning. J. S. Wise. *Rev. of Revs.*
 Government, The, and Good Roads. Martin Dodge. *Forum*.
 Hawthorne, The Solitude of. P. E. More. *Atlantic*.
 History and Biography in 1901. W. B. Shaw. *Rev. of Revs.*
 Humor, American, Retrospect of. W. P. Trent. *Century*.
 Intellect, Human, Evolution of. E. L. Thorndike. *Pop. Sci.*
 Ito, Marquis. Frederick Palmer. *Scribner*.
 Klondike, A Woman's Trip to the. Lippincott.
 Low, Seth. James H. Canfield. *Review of Reviews*.
 McKinley, Personal Characteristics of. J. D. Long. *Century*.
 Memories, Phenomenal. E. S. Holden. *Harper*.
 Mississippi Valley Organized. James K. Hoamer. *Atlantic*.

Mountebanks, Strolling. André Castaigne. *Harper*.
 Murder Trials, and Newspapers. C. E. Grinnell. *Atlantic*.
 New York's Municipal Campaign. *Review of Reviews*.
 Pearsons, D. K., Friend of Small Colleges. *Rev. of Revs.*
 Philadelphia Campaign, The. C. R. Woodruff. *Rev. of Revs.*
 Philippine Rebellion, Last Phase of. *Review of Reviews*.
 Preferences and Bankruptcy Law. H. Remington. *Forum*.
 Production, Modern, Marvels of. G. B. Waldron. *McClure*.
 Psychiatry. Frederick L. Hills. *Popular Science*.
 Publishers' Methods, Some Changes in. *Review of Reviews*.
 Omen Animals of Sarawak. A. C. Haddon. *Popular Science*.
 Reindeer, White, Legend of the. E. Seton-Thompson. *Cent*.
 Roosevelt, President. W. A. White. *McClure*.
 Roosevelt, Theodore. A. Maurice Low. *Forum*.
 Rossetti, Recollections of. H. H. Gilchrist. *Lippincott*.
 Russia and the Nations. Henry Norman. *Scribner*.
 St. Saviour's, Southwark. C. E. Russell. *Harper*.
 Santos-Dumont's Balloon. Sterling Heilig. *Century*.
 Sea, Bottom of the. C. C. Nutting. *Harper*.
 Sex in Plants, Origin of. B. M. Davis. *Popular Science*.
 Shepard, Edward Morse. G. F. Peabody. *Review of Reviews*.
 Species, Varieties of. C. Darwin and A. Wallace. *Pop. Sci.*
 Sugar and the New Colonies. C. A. Crampton. *Forum*.
 State's Honor, Preservation of a. W. Saulsbury. *Forum*.
 Steel Corporation, The U. S. R. S. Baker. *McClure*.
 Street Railway Franchises, Taxes on. W. S. Allen. *Forum*.
 Virgins, Our Foolish. Eliot Gregory. *Century*.
 Ward, Artemus, Recollections of. J. F. Ryder. *Century*.
 Webster, Daniel. S. W. McCall. *Atlantic*.
 West, Settlement of the. Emerson Hough. *Century*.
 Whipple, Bishop, Friend of the Indian. *Review of Reviews*.
 Winter Ramble, A. Sadakichi Hartmann. *Harper*.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 300 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

HISTORY.

The Spanish-American War. By R. A. Alger. Secretary of War, March 5, 1897, to August 1, 1899. With photogravure portrait and maps, 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 466. Harper & Brothers. \$2.50 net.
 The French Revolution and Religious Reform: An Account of Ecclesiastical Legislation and its Influence on Affairs in France from 1789 to 1804. By William Milligan Sloane, L.H.D. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 333. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2. net.
 The Oldest Civilization of Greece: Studies of the Mycenaean Age. By H. R. Hall, M.A. Illus., large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 346. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3. net.
 A Diary of the Siege of the Legations in Peking, during the Summer of 1900. By Nigel Oliphant; with Preface by Andrew Lang. 12mo, uncut, pp. 227. Longmans, Green, & Co. \$1.50 net.
 The Last Days of the French Monarchy. By Sophia H. MacLehose. Illus., 12mo, uncut, pp. 391. Macmillan Co. \$2.25.
 Colonial Fights and Fighters: Stories of Exploration, Adventure, and Battle on the American Continent prior to the Revolution. By Cyrus Townsend Brady. Illus., 8vo, pp. 341. McClure, Phillips & Co. \$1.20 net.
 The Revolutionary Movement in Pennsylvania, 1760-1776. By Charles H. Lincoln. Large 8vo, pp. 300. "Publications of the University of Pennsylvania." Ginn & Co. Paper.
 A History of Greece. From the earliest times to the death of Alexander the Great. By C. W. C. Oman, M.A. Seventh edition, revised; illus., 12mo, pp. 560. Longmans, Green, & Co.

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

Life on the Stage: My Personal Experiences and Recollections. By Clara Morris. With portrait, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 399. McClure, Phillips & Co. \$1.50 net.
 Maids and Matrons of New France. By Mary Sifton Pepper. Illus., 8vo, gilt top, pp. 286. Little, Brown, & Co. \$1.50 net.

Memories of a Musical Life. By William Mason. Illus., 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 306. Century Co. \$2. net.
Shakespeare the Man: An Essay. By Walter Bagehot. With photogravure portrait, large 8vo, uncut, pp. 66. McClure, Phillips & Co. 50 cts. net.
Mark Hanna: A Sketch from Life; and Other Essays. By Solon Lauer. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, pp. 167. Cleveland: Nike Pub'g House. \$1.50.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

The Lore of Cathay; or, The Intellect of China. By W. A. P. Martin, D.D. Illus., large 8vo, uncut, pp. 480. F. H. Revell Co. \$2.50 net.
A Book of New England Legends and Folk Lore, in Prose and Poetry. By Samuel Adams Drake. New and revised edition; illus., 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 477. Little, Brown, & Co. \$2.50.
A Japanese Miscellany. By Lafcadio Hearn. Illus., 12mo, uncut. Little, Brown, & Co. \$1.60 net.
Essays, Theological and Literary. By Charles Carroll Everett. With photogravure portrait, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 358. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.75 net.
Woman in the Golden Ages. By Amelia Gere Mason. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 306. Century Co. \$1.80 net.
The Last Words (Real and Traditional) of Distinguished Men and Women. Collected from various sources by Frederic Rowland Marvin. 12mo, pp. 336. F. H. Revell Co. \$1.50 net.
A Year Book of Famous Lyrics: Selections from British and American Poets, arranged for Daily Reading or Memorizing. Edited by Frederic Lawrence Knowles. With portraits, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 392. Dana Estes & Co. \$1.50.
Little Pilgrimages among the Men Who Have Written Famous Books. By E. F. Harkins. With portraits, 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 332. L. C. Page & Co. \$1.50.
A Model Village of Homes, and Other Papers. By Charles E. Holton, M.A. With portrait, 12mo, gilt top, pp. 308. L. C. Page & Co. \$1.25.
The Meaning and Value of Poetry. By William Henry Hudson. 12mo, pp. 31. T. Y. Crowell & Co. 35 cts.
To Girls: A Budget of Letters. By Heloise Edwina Hersey. 16mo, uncut, pp. 247. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.
The Faculty Corner: Papers Contributed to "The Unit" by Members of the Faculty of Iowa College. 12mo, pp. 208. Ginnell, Iowa: Published by the College.

NEW EDITIONS OF STANDARD LITERATURE.

New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare. Edited by Horace Howard Furness. Vol. XIII., *Twelfth Night, or What You Will.* Large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 434. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$4. net.
Boswell's Life of Johnson. Edited by Augustine Birrell; illustrated with portraits selected by Ernest Radford. In 6 vols., 12mo, gilt tops, uncut. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$12. net.
The Lives of the English Saints. Written by various hands at the suggestion of John Henry Newman, afterwards Cardinal; with introduction by Arthur Wollaston Hutton. In 6 vols., with photogravure frontispieces, 12mo, gilt tops. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$12. net.
Hypatia. By Charles Kingsley; with Introduction by Edmund Gosse. In 2 vols., with portraits, 12mo, gilt tops, uncut. "Century Classics." Century Co. \$2.50 net.
Sesame and Lilies, and The Crown of Wild Olive. By John Ruskin. With portrait, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 387. "Century Classics." Century Co. \$1.25 net.
Tales. By Edgar Allan Poe; with Introduction by Hamilton Wright Mabie. With portrait, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 499. "Century Classics." Century Co. \$1.25 net.
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. With Introduction by Woodrow Wilson. With portrait, 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 299. "Century Classics." Century Co. \$1.25 net.
Marcus Aurelius Antoninus to Himself. In English by Gerald H. Rendall, M.A. With photogravure frontispiece, 24mo, uncut, pp. 167. "Golden Treasury Series." Macmillan Co. \$1.

POETRY AND VERSE.

The Lutes of Morn. By Clinton Scollard. 8vo, uncut, pp. 64. Boston: Alfred Bartlett. \$1.75.
From the Hills of Dream: Threnodies, Songs, and Other Poems. By Fiona Macleod. 18mo, uncut, pp. 148. Portland: Thomas B. Mosher. \$1. net.

Sonnets and Songs. By Mary M. Adams. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 167. G. P. Putnam's Sons.
A Gage of Youth: Lyrics from The Lark and Other Poems. By Gelett Burgess. 18mo, pp. 55. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1. net.
Songs of My Violin. By Alfred L. Donaldson. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 66. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.
At the Sign of the Ginger Jar: Some Verses Gay and Grave. By Ray Clarke Rose. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 208. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1. net.
The Feast of Thalarchus: A Dramatic Poem. By Condé Benoist Pallen. 12mo, uncut, pp. 73. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.

FICTION.

The Cavalier. By George W. Cable; illus. by Howard Chandler Christy. 12mo, pp. 311. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.
The Secret Orchard. By Agnes and Egerton Castle. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, pp. 349. F. A. Stokes Co. \$1.50.
The Making of a Marchioness. By Frances Hodgson Burnett. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, pp. 187. F. A. Stokes Co. \$1.10 net.
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